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PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 15422-70

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:)
HIGUCHI et al.) Examiner: R. Prouty
Serial No.: 07/695,201) Art Unit: 1814
Filed: May 2, 1991) AMENDMENT
For: HOMOGENEOUS METHODS FOR)
NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFICATION)
AND DETECTION)

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 10, 1992, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and a petition to extend the period of response for three months are enclosed.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims as below.

1. (Amended) A method for detecting a target nucleic acid in a sample, said method [comprises the steps of] comprising:

(a) providing [an] a DNA amplification reaction mixture that comprises said sample, a DNA binding agent, wherein said agent is characterized as providing a detectable signal when bound to double-stranded [nucleic acid] DNA which signal is ~~greater than the amount of said~~ distinguishable from the signal provided by said agent when it is unbound, and wherein said agent does not significantly inhibit the rate of nucleic acid amplification and reagents for amplification;

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